

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 31643 281011Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 /065 W
-----120292 281146Z /20
R 280927Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3559

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 31643

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, TH
SUBJECT: RTG LABOR POLICY

REF: (A) BANGKOK 29604, (B) BANGKOK 28803

1. SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW GOVERNMENT, PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN AND RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAVE SOUGHT TO DEVELOP DIALOGUE WITH LABOR LEADERS AND TO MEET SOME OF ORGANIZED LABOR'S MORE PRESSING REQUESTS. ALTHOUGH OUTLINE OF NEW RTG'S LABOR POLICY IS STILL EVOLVING, DIRECTION THUS FAR IS RESPONSIVE TO ASPIRATIONS OF ORGANIZED LABOR AND SHOULD, IF MAINTAINED, HELP HEAL WOUNDS INFLICTED BY INSENSITIVE POLICIES OF THE THANIN GOVERNMENT.

2. AS GESTURE OF HIS INTEREST AND GOOD WILL, PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN MET ON NOVEMBER 19, 1977, WITH APPROXIMATELY 500 LABOR LEADERS FROM VIRTUALLY ALL FUNCTIONING UNIONS IN THAILAND. ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETING, WHICH WAS OFFICIALLY DESCRIBED AS "COURTESY CALL" BY LABOR LEADERS ON NEW PRIME MINISTER, WERE CAREFULLY PREPARED IN ADVANCE BY BOTH SIDES. ACTING AS LABOR SPOKESMAN IN PLACE OF PHAISAN THAWATCHAINAN, WHO IS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 31643 281011Z

CURRENTLY VISITING THE UNITED STATES, AMAD KHAMTHETTHONG, PRESIDENT OF STATE RAILWAY OF THAILAND LABOR UNION, GAVE PM KRIANGSAK LIST OF TEN SUGGESTIONS FOR RTG LABOR POLICY. SUGGESTIONS CALLED FOR:
(A) STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF LABOR LAWS.
(B) REVOCATION OF CABINET RESOLUTION OF APRIL 21, 1977, EXCLUDING STATE ENTERPRISES FROM COVERAGE UNDER LABOR

RELATIONS ACT OF 1975.

(C) LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW RESTRICTIONS ON ROUTINE LABOR UNION ACTIVITIES.

(D) GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION AND PROVISION OF LABOR EDUCATION SEMINARS FOR WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS.

(E) REVISION OF LABOR LAWS.

(F) ESTABLISHMENT OF LABOR MINISTRY AND LABOR COURT.

(G) GOVERNMENT PRICE CONTROL ON CONSUMER GOODS.

(H) ENACTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION.

(I) GOVERNMENT JOB CREATION PROGRAM.

(J) NEW LEADERSHIP IN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

3. IN RESPONSE KRIANGSAK TOLD LABOR LEADERS AT NOVEMBER 19 MEETING THAT HE BELIEVES LABOR UNIONS ARE NECESSARY AND HAVE IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN THAILAND. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT UNIONS MUST WORK WITHIN TOLERABLE LIMITS OF DEMOCRATIC FRAMEWORK. ON CURRENT POLICY ISSUES, HE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR INCLUSION OF STATE ENTERPRISES UNDER LABOR RELATIONS ACT OF 1975 AND FOR REGISTRATION OF LABOR CONGRESS OF THAILAND AS LEGALLY RECOGNIZED LABOR COUNCIL.

4. AS ANOTHER INDICATION NEW RTG INTENDS TO LISTEN SERIOUSLY TO ORGANIZED LABOR, FOUR PROMINANT LABOR LEADERS WERE NAMED ON NOVEMBER 16 TO NEW 360 MEMBER NATION ASSEMBLY. THEY ARE PHAISAN THAWATCHAINAN, PRESIDENT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGKO 31643 281011Z

METROPOLITAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY LABOR UNION; SUNTHON KAEONET, EXPRESS TRANSPORT ORGANIZATION LABOR UNION; SOMCHAN INTARO, PRESIDENT OF THAI KURABO LABOR UNION; AND PRICHA SIMISAP, PRESIDENT OF IRON AND METAL WORKERS UNION. ALL ARE ACTIVE IN LABOR CONGRESS OF THAILAND AND WERE EARLIER ELECTED BY THEIR PEERS AS LABOR REPRESENTATIVES TO NATIONAL LABOR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

5. IN SERIES OF PRESS STATEMENTS DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER DAMRI NOIMANEE, WHO HAS BEEN DELEGATED GENERAL SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BY INTERIOR MINISTER KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN, HAS INDICATED THAT RTG WILL ALSO (1) SEEK TO SET UP LONG-STALLED NATIONAL LABOR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, (2) PERMIT LABOR CONGRESS OF THAILAND TO REGISTER AS LABOR COUNCIL AND (3) PUSH FOR EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF LABOR COURT UNDER MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TO FACILITATE ADJUDICATION OF LABOR DISPUTES.

6. IN LATEST CONCESSION TO LABOR, INTERIOR MINISTER KRIANGSAK ON NOVEMBER 26 "PROMOTED" MUCH DISLIKED LABOR DIRECTOR GENERAL SUWIT YINGWORAPHAN TO POSITION OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF INTERIOR MINISTRY AND NAMED

FORMER LABOR DEPUTY DG WICHIT SAENGTHONG NEW LABOR
DIRECTOR GENERAL. PRIOR TO HIS INVOLUNTARY TRANSFER
LAST AUGUST TO ACCELERATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT BY THEN
MINISTER SAMAK, WICHIT WAS CONSIDERED KRIANGSAK'S MAN
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

7. ON CONTENTIOUS ISSUE OF STATUS OF STATE ENTERPRISE
WORKERS, FORMER LABOR DG SUWIT YINGWORAPHON TOLD PRESS
ON NOVEMBER 22, 1977, PRIOR TO HIS "PROMOTION", THAT
INTERIOR MINISTRY HAS ASKED NEW CABINET TO RECONSIDER
DECISION OF THANIN CABINET EXCLUDING STATE ENTERPRISES
FROM COVERAGE UNDER LABOR RELATIONS ACT OF 1975.
IMPLICATION WAS CLEAR THAT KRIANGSAK CABINET WOULD
REVERSE EARLIER DECISION AND ORDER INCLUSION OF STATE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 BANGKO 31643 281011Z

ENTERPRISES UNDER ACT.
O'DONOHUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, MEETINGS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO31643
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770439-0996
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771115/aaaaamgc.tel
Line Count: 138
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 94c9be10-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BANGKOK 29604, 77 BANGKOK 28803
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 439075
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RTG LABOR POLICY
TAGS: ELAB, TH, (KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/94c9be10-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009